



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 15, 2007

TO: Local and Intermediate School Superintendents and Public School
Academy Directors

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: Immediate Response Required to Guarantee Continuance of
Federal Funding

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding the submission procedure for certifying your district's compliance for constitutionally protected prayer, Constitution Day, and eye protective devices. All certifications will be due **October 1, 2007**.

Constitutionally Protected Prayer

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) requires that each local or intermediate school district or public school academy, as a condition of receiving funds under any portion of the NCLB, annually certify, in writing to the state agency, that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools.

MDE is required by November 1, 2007, to provide the USDOE a list of all districts not providing MDE with this certification. A district's failure to submit the required certification may result in the district's loss of funding under NCLB.

Constitution Day

Public Law 108-447 requires all educational institutions receiving Federal funds to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17th, for the students served by the educational institution.

Eye Protective Devices

All public schools and public school academies are required to provide adequate eye protective devices for students enrolled in courses where danger to the eye exists [MCL 380.1288]. Administrative Code Rules governing Eye Protective Devices require that all public schools and public school academies certify compliance with this requirement.

Each district must submit all three certifications. Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) Authorized (Level 5) Officials will go into MEGS and affirm compliance in each of the three areas. The steps are:

- Authorized Officials (Level 5) log into MEGS.
- On the Main Menu select "**Additional Functions**," click on "**Certification Menu**."
- Within the "**Certification Menu**," click on the specific certification.
- Read and verify the statement by using the "**I Agree**" button.
- Print a copy of each certification for the district record.

The MEGS submission outlined above will meet the requirements of the statutes. Questions regarding this process may be directed to Grants Administration and Coordination at 517-373-1806.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • JOHN C. AUSTIN – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – TREASURER
NANCY DANHOF – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • CASANDRA E. ULBRICH

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324